

--Albumin-heme was prepared from a heme derivative, i.e., (2-[8-{N-(2-methylimidazolyl)}octanoyloxymethyl]-5,10,1 S, 20-tetrakis (α , α , α , α -o pivalamido) phenylporphyrinato-iron(II)), and human serum albumin by the method described in the aforementioned document (E. Tsuchida et al., Bioconjugate Chemistry, vol. 8, 534 538, 1997), the content of which is incorporated herein by reference. After confirming that the ferric iron hemes are bound with oxygen, the resultant albumin - heme solution was sealed into a glass container. Then, a nitrogen gas was put through the solution by the same method as in Example 1, and thus the oxygen partial pressure was reduced to low as 3 Torr. Thus, the deoxy-type albumin-hemes were obtained. The resultant albumin-heme solution was preserved at 20°C for five months, and the analysis thereof did not show any indication of increase in the amount of ferric iron heme. Further, an increase in the amount of insoluble matter was not observed.--

IN THE CLAIMS

--10. (Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the polyoxyethylene is fixed into the surface of the molecular assemblies by a hydrophobic moiety of the components of molecular assembly [polyoxyethylene].

11. (Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein the hydrophobic moiety comprises at least one amphipathic molecule selected from the group consisting of ethanolamine phospholipid, cholesterol, alkyl-chain-linked glutamic acid [or] and alkyl-chain-linked lysine.--

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--10. (Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the polyoxyethylene is fixed into the surface of the molecular assemblies by a hydrophobic moiety of the components of molecular assembly.

11. (Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein the hydrophobic moiety comprises at least one amphipathic molecule selected from the group consisting of ethanolamine phospholipid, cholesterol, alkyl-chain-linked glutamic acid and alkyl-chain-linked lysine.--

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The specification is amended to correct minor typographical errors. The amendment to Claims 10-11 is supported by the original claims. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the above amendment.